



The high-speed HSV-X1, an Australian-built wave-piercing catamaran, called at the Army's Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site on Kwajalein Atoll when a typhoon interfered with her Pacific crossing.

Kwajalein Atoll

Joint Venture Visits Reagan Test Site

ONE of most innovative vessels in the U.S. military arsenal sped into the world's largest lagoon at 30 knots in early July.

The Australian-built high-speed transport HSV-X1, known as *Joint Venture*, spent the night at the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll marina after a seven-day trip from Singapore. The vessel, which is being jointly evaluated by the Army, Navy and other federal agencies, was returning to the United States following missions associated with Operation Enduring Freedom, said the ship's second mate, Army CW2 Tim Schauwecker. The ship was originally scheduled to travel via Guam, but was diverted to Kwajalein — site of the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site — because of Typhoon Chataan.

Schauwecker said the ship's 36 crewmembers have tested the vessel's abilities in the waters around Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Ocean since beginning their voyage in March.

Built as a high-speed passenger ferry for use between Tasmania and mainland Australia, the 313-foot wave-piercing catamaran has been fitted with a helicopter pad and other military-specific modifications. A two-part, hydraulically-operated ramp allows rapid loading and unloading of vehicles and troops from the stern or side of the vessel.

Schauwecker said the HSV-X1 is intended to offer higher load capacity than an airplane but at a much faster speed than the Army's current types of large, ocean-going landing craft. — *Peter Rejcek, Kwajalein Hourglass*

Fort Polk, La.

New Englanders Tackle the Bayou

MASSACHUSETTS National Guard soldiers used skills acquired last year in the Mojave Desert during this year's annual training in the land of alligators and armadillos.

Seventy soldiers from the 1164th Transportation Com-

pany spent two weeks here, moving supplies and 4,500 soldiers from the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 45th Infantry Division during the field-training exercise.

"We are a blue-collar company," said 1SG Mark Sullivan. "All we want is work. When we get the work we excel."

Company commander CPT Myles McHugh said the training his soldiers received mirrored what they'd do during a real-world mission.

"Our unit has a diversity of skills, and our soldiers were able to put many of those to the test at Fort Polk," he said.

As a heavy truck company, the unit routinely moves supplies. But at Fort Polk the soldiers used buses, Humvees and 5-ton trucks to move thousands of troops during the exercise, McHugh said.

"We also participated in

SPC Robyn Chapman and SPC Lewis Trinidad were among the Massachusetts Guard soldiers at Fort Polk.



1LT Brad Leighton

some engineering operations, as well as railhead and river-transportation operations,” he said. “The unit trained in railhead operations last year at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif.”

COL Ed Tucker of the 45th Inf. Div. said the New England Guard soldiers did a great job.

“This is the climax of three years’ worth of training for the division,” Tucker said. “The 1164th did a great job supporting them.” — *1LT Brad Leighton, Mass. Guard Public Affairs Office*

Tucson, Ariz.

Reservists Move Fuel

THE capabilities of several Army Reserve units to test, store and distribute petroleum products were tested during a recent coast-to-coast exercise involving more than a dozen battalions, and 100 transporta-

SSG Amie Howell



SPC Jorge Morales connects a suction hose to an M-969 tanker and prepares to offload JP-8 fuel at the Tucson Air National Guard Receiving Terminal during operation POLEX.

tion and quartermaster companies and detachments.

“Operation POLEX 02 tested our soldiers’ ability to store and distribute petroleum products from several defense fuel-supply points,” said MAJ Clifford A. Brown, commander of the Tucson-based 418th Quartermaster Battalion. “We also purified water and distributed it to units training on various installations.”

Brown said the exercise met the Reservists’ two-week annual training requirement while allowing his soldiers to perform daily operations normally accomplished by civilian contractors.

During the exercise, the unit distributed more than 400,000 gallons of aviation fuel to the Arizona Air National Guard in Tucson, at Luke Air Force Base and at Fort Huachuca, Brown said.

“Our objective was to safely transport fuel using available transportation assets; set up and store fuel in a field environment with the petroleum-supply companies ‘bag farm’ assets; and check fuel quality using the battalion’s mobile petroleum laboratory,” he said. “Our battalion has one of four certified mobile petroleum laboratories that are operational in the Army Reserve.” — *Elizabeth Proenza, 418th QM Bn. PAO*

Saudi Arabia

Allies Train, Jump Together

THE United States and Saudi Arabia recently emphasized their long-standing military alliance by conducting the first joint military operation in the Middle Eastern nation.

To build on the two nations’ existing military relationship,

COL John S. Westwood, chief of the U.S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia’s Joint Advisory Division, came up with the idea of conducting airborne training with the Saudi

Saudi and U.S. jumpmasters rehearse proper aircraft exit procedures during joint prejump training.

Stuart G. R. Warner



Stuart G. R. Warner



As paratroopers descend, Saudi Maj. Gen. Abdulrahman Al-Marshad presents a commemorative plaque to U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael N. Farage, chief of USMTM.

Arabian Special Security Forces School and Center.

“Our job is to train with the Saudis — to lead by example — to encourage fellowship and demonstrate leadership,” said Westwood. “An airborne operation would be a great way to forge those attributes.”

“Conducting two days of basic airborne refresher training with the Saudis was a big step toward building cooperation and confidence between their jumpers and ours,” said LTC John E. Bokor, plans and operations adviser to the Saudi land forces. “This gave us all a chance to see our

similarities and differences.”

“Their procedures were a little different from ours, but they were still professional and

safe,” said LTC Phillip Maxwell, USMTM’s director of mission relations.

“We will always cherish this experience,” Capt. Hythem Mohammed Al-Fhaid, a Saudi special forces instructor, said after the jump.

“This is just the beginning,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael N. Farage, chief of USMTM. “We’re going to continue to build on this relationship and look at creative ways to conduct meaningful training with the Airborne Special Security Forces School and Center.” — *CPT Matthew J. Yandura, USMTM PAO*